



THE
THREE ADVICES
An Irish Tale;

TO WHICH IS ADDED

The Silent Man.

WITH A

Variety of Anecdotes.



GLASGOW:

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THE

THREE ADVICES,

AN IRISH TALE.

THERE once came, what of late happened so often in Ireland, a hard year. When the crops failed, there was beggary and misfortune from one end of the island to the other. At that time a great many poor people had to quit the country from want of employment, and through the high prices of provisions. Among others, John Carson was under the necessity of going over to England, to try if he could get work; and of leaving his wife and family behind him, begging for a bit and a sup up and down, and trusting to the charity of good Christians.

John was a smart young fellow, handy at any work, from the hay-field to the stable, and willing to earn the bread he ate; and he was soon engaged by a gentleman. The

English are mighty strict upon Irish servants : he was to have twelve guineas a-year as wages, but the money was not to be paid until the end of the year, and he was to forfeit the entire twelve guineas in the lump, if he misconducted himself in any way within the twelve months. John Carson was, to be sure, upon his best behaviour, and conducted himself in every particular so well for the whole time, there was no faulting him late or early, and the wages were fairly his.

The term of his agreement being expired, he determined on returning home, notwithstanding his master, who had a great regard for him, pressed him to remain, and asked him if he had any reason to be dissatisfied with his treatment.

“No reason in life, sir,” said John : “you’ve been a good master, and a kind master to me; the Lord spare you over your family : but I left a wife with two small children of my own at home, after me in Ireland, and your honour would never wish to keep me from them entirely—the wife and the children !”

“Well, John,” said the gentleman, “you have earned your twelve guineas, and you have been, in every respect, so good a servant, that, if you are agreeable, I intend giving you what is worth the twelve guineas ten times over, in place of your wages. But you shall have your choice—will you take what I offer, on my word ?”

John saw no reason to think that his master was jesting with him, or was insincere in

making the offer ; and therefore, after slight consideration, told him that he agreed to take as his wages whatever he would advise, whether it was the twelve guineas or not.

“Then listen attentively to my words,” said the gentleman.

“First—I would teach you this—‘Never to take a byeroad when you have the highway.’

“Secondly—‘Take heed not to lodge in the house where an old man is married to a young woman.’

“And thirdly—‘Remember that honesty is the best policy.’

“These are the Three Advices I would pay you with ; and they are in value far beyond any gold ; however, here is a guinea for your travelling charges, and two cakes, one of which you must give to your wife, and the other you must not eat yourself until you have done so, and I charge you to be careful of them.”

It was not without reluctance, on the part of John Carson, that he was brought to accept mere words for wages, or could be persuaded that they were more precious than golden guineas. His faith in his master was, however, so strong that he at length became satisfied.

John set out for Ireland the next morning early ; but he had not proceeded far, before he overtook two pedlars who were travelling the same way. He entered into conversation with them, and found them a pair of merry fellows, who proved excellent company on the road. Now it happened, towards the end

of their day's journey, when they were all tired with walking, that they came to a wood, through which there was a path that shortened the distance to the town they were going towards, by two miles. The pedlars advised John to go with them through the wood ; but he refused to leave the highway, telling them, at the same time, he would meet them again at a certain house in the town, where travellers put up. John was willing to try the worth of the advice which his master had given him, and he arrived in safety, and took up his quarters at the appointed place. While he was eating his supper, an old man came hobbling into the kitchen, and gave orders about different matters there, and went out again. John would have taken no particular notice of this; but, immediately after, a young woman, young enough to be the old man's daughter, came in, and gave orders exactly the contrary of what the old man had given ; calling him, at the same time, a great many hard names, such as old fool, and old dotard, and so on.

When she was gone, John inquired who the old man was. "He is the landlord," said the servant ; "and, Heaven help him ! a dog's life he has led since he married his last wife."

"What!" said John, with surprise, "is that young woman the landlord's wife ! I see I must not remain in this house to-night;" and, tired as he was, he got up to leave it, but went no farther than the door before he met the two pedlars, all cut and bleeding,

coming in; for they had been robbed and almost murdered in the wood. John was very sorry to see them in that condition, and advised them not to lodge in the house, telling them, with a significant nod, that all was not right there; but the poor pedlars were so weary and so bruised, that they would stop where they were, and disregard the advice.

Rather than remain in the house, John retired to the stable, and laid himself down upon a bundle of straw, where he slept soundly for some time. About the middle of the night, he heard two persons come into the stable, and, on listening to their conversation, discovered that it was the landlady and a man laying a plan how to murder her husband. In the morning, John renewed his journey; but at the next town he came to, he was told that the landlord in the town he had left had been murdered, and that two pedlars, whose clothes were found all covered with blood, had been taken up for the crime, and were going to be hanged. John, without mentioning what he had overheard to any person, determined to save the pedlars if possible, and so returned in order to attend their trial.

On going into the court, he saw the two men at the bar: and the young woman and the man, whose voice he had heard in the stable, swearing their innocent lives away. But the judge allowed him to give his evidence, and he told every particular of what had occurred. The man and the young woman instantly confessed their guilt; the poor pedlars were

at once acquitted : and the judge ordered a large reward to be paid to John Carson, as through his means the real murderers were brought to justice.

John now proceeded towards home, fully convinced of the value of two of the advices which his master had given him. On arriving at his cabin, he found his wife and children rejoicing over a purse full of gold which the eldest boy had picked up on the road that morning. Whilst he was away, they had endured all the miseries which the wretched families of those who go over to seek work in England are exposed to. With precarious food, without a bed to lie down on, or a roof to shelter them, they had wandered through the country, seeking food from door to door of a starving population ; and, when a single potato was bestowed, showering down blessings and thanks on the giver, not in the set phrases of the medicant, but in a burst of eloquence too fervid not to gush direct from the heart. Those only who have seen a family of such beggars as I describe, can fancy the joy with which the poor woman welcomed her husband back, and informed him of the purse full of gold.

“ And where did Mick, my boy, find it ? ” inquired John Carson.

“ It was the young squire, for certain, who dropped it,” said his wife ; “ for he rode down the road this morning, and was leaping his horse in the very gap where Micky picked it up ; but sure, John, he has enough besides, and never a halfpenny have I to buy

my poor *childer* a bit to eat this blessed night."

"Never mind that," said John; "do as I bid you, and take up the purse at on toée. the big house, and ask for the young squire. I have two cakes which I brought evrey step of the way with me from England, and they will do for the children's supper. I ought surely to remember, as good right I have what my master told me for my twelve-months' wages; seeing I never, as yet, found what he said to be wrong."

"And what did he say?" inquired his wife.

"That honesty is the best policy," answered John.

"'Tis very well, and 'tis mighty easy for them to say so, that have never been sore tempted, by distress and famine, to say otherwise; but your bidding is enough for me, John."

Straightways she went to the big house, and inquired for the young squire; but she was denied the liberty to speak to him.

"You must tell me your business, honest woman," said a servant, with a head all powdered and frizzled like a cauliflower, and who had on a coat covered with gold and silver lace and buttons, and every thing in the world.

"If you knew but all," said she, "I am an honest woman, for I've brought a purse full of gold to the young master, that my little boy picked up by the roadside; for surely it is his, as nobody else could have so much money."

"Let me see it," said the servant.—"Ay

it's all right—I'll take care of it—you need not trouble yourself any more about the matter;" and so saying, he slapped the door in her face. When she returned, her husband produced the two cakes which his master gave him on parting; and breaking one to divide between his children, how was he astonished at finding six golden guineas in it; and when he took the other and broke it, he found as many more! He then remembered the words of his generous master, who desired him to give one of the cakes to his wife, and not to eat the other himself until that time; and this was the way his master took to conceal his wages, lest he should have been robbed, or have lost the money on the road.

The following day, as John was standing near his cabin-door, and turning in his mind what he should do with his money, the young squire came riding down the road. John pulled off his hat, for he had not forgot his manners through the means of his travelling to foreign parts, and then made so bold as to inquire if his honour had got the purse he lost

"Why, it is true enough, my good fellow," said the squire, "I did lose my purse yesterday, and I hope you were lucky enough to find it; for if that is your cabin, you seem to be very poor, and shall keep it as a reward for your honesty."

"Then the servant up at the big house never gave it to your honour last night after taking it from Nance—she's my wife, your honour—and telling her it was all right?"

“ Oh, I must look into this business,” said the squire.

“ Did you say your wife, my poor man, gave my purse to a servant—to what servant?”

“ I can’t tell his name rightly,” said John, “ because I don’t know it; but never trust Nance’s eyes again if she can’t point him out to your honour, if so your honour is desirous of knowing.”

“ Then do you and Nance, as you call her, come up to the hall this evening, and I’ll inquire into the matter, I promise you.” So saying, the squire rode off.

John and his wife went up accordingly in the evening, and he gave a small rap with the big knocker at the great door. The door was opened by a grand servant, who, without hearing what the poor people had to say, exclaimed, “ Oh, go!—go—what business can you have here?” and shut the door.

John’s wife burst out crying—“ There,” said she, sobbing as if her heart would break, “ I knew that would be the end of it.”

But John had not been in merry England merely to get his twelve guineas packed in two cakes. “ No,” said he firmly, “ right is right, and I’ll see end the of it.” So he sat himself down on the step of the door, determined not to go until he saw the young squire; and, as it happened, it was not long before he came out.

“ I have been expecting you some time, John,” said he; “ come in and bring your wife in;” and he made them go before him into the house. Immediately he directed all the servants to come up stairs; and such an

army of them as there was ! It was a real sight to see them.

“ Which of you,” said the young squire, without making further words, “ which of you all did this honest woman give my purse to ? ”—but there was no answer. “ Well, I suppose she must be mistaken, unless she can tell herself.”

John’s wife at once pointed her finger towards the head footman, “ there he is,” said she, “ if all the world were to the fore—clergyman, magistrate, judge, jury and ail—there he is, and I’m ready to take my bible-oath to him—there he is who told me it was all right when he took the purse, and slammed the door in my face, without as much as thank ye for it.”

The conscious footman turned pale.

“ What is this I hear ? ” said his master. “ If this woman gave you my purse, William, why did you not give it to me ? ”

The servant stammered out a denial ; but his master insisted on his being searched, and the purse was found in his pocket.

“ John,” said the gentleman, turning round, “ you shall be no loser by this affair. Here are ten guineas for you : go home now, but I will not forget your wife’s honesty.”

Within a month, John Carson was settled in a nice new-slatted house, which the squire had furnished and made ready for him. What with his wages, and the reward he got from the judge, and the ten guineas for returning the purse, he was well to do in the world, and was soon able to stock a small farm, where he lived respected all his days.

On his deathbed, he gave his children the very Three Advices which his master had given him on parting :—

Never to take a byeroad when they could follow the highway.

Never to lodge in the house where an old man was married to a young woman.

And, above all, to remember that honesty is the best policy.

SCARCITY OF ASSES,

The rev. Mr. Thom of Govan, riding home from Paisley, on a particular occasion, came up with two gentlemen, heritors of his parish, who had lately been made justices of the peace. They, seeing him well mounted, as usual, were determined to pass a joke on him, and accosted him thus :—" Well, Mr. Thom, you are very unlike your Master ; for he was content to ride on an ass." " An ass !" says Mr. Thom, " there's no sic a beast to be gotten now-a-days." " Ay, how's that ?" said they. " Because," replied Mr. Thom, " they now make them a' *justices of the peace* !"

ANECDOTES.

THE LAIRD OF GARSCADDEN.

Garscadden, and another country squire, happened one day, after a keen day's sport, to visit rather unexpectedly the residence of a Water-of-Endrick husbandman. The sportsmen were very cordially received by the family, and among other apologies the landlord regretted that dinner was over, as he had just finished some excellent chickens. "Mak nae apologies, George," said Garscad, "I weel believe what you say, for I see the feathers (alluding to the marks of some pease brose) still on your breast.

A simple Highland girl, on her way home for the north, called the other day, as she passed by Crieff, upon an old master, with whom she had formerly served. Being kindly invited by him to share in the family dinner, and the usual ceremony of asking a blessing having been gone through, the poor girl, anxious to compliment, as she conceived, her ancient host, exclaimed, "Ah, master, ye maun hae a grand memory, for that's the grace ye had when I was wi' you seven years ago."

A TAVERN INCIDENT.

A traveller domiciling at an American hotel, exclaimed one morning to the waiter, "What are you about, you black rascal, you have roused me twice from my sleep by telling me breakfast is ready, and now you are attempting to strip off the bed-clothes: what do you mean?" "Why," replied Pompey, "If you isn't goin' to

git up, I must hab de sheet any how,
'cause dey'r waitin' for de table cloy!"

A KING AND A PHILOSOPHR.

George III. while walking one day at Windsor, met a smart little boy who was dressed in a suit of new clothes. The king, addressing him in his familiar way, said, "Well, my little fellow to whom do you belong?" The boy knew the king, and answered, "An't please your Majesty, I belong to one of his Majesty's beef eaters." The king was so well pleased with the little fellow that he said, "If you bend down on your knee I will allow you to kiss my hand." "Nay," said the boy, "I can't do that, for I would dirty all my new breeches."

THE SILENT MAN.

PERHAPS there never existed a mortal of a more whimsical kind of character than myself. *Silence* has been my motto from my cradle ; nor ever has it been remembered that I uttered *three* syllables at a time when there was the smallest possibility of making *two* answer the same end.

It has often been remarked, by those who had the care of me in my infancy, that I never laughed, cried, or expressed the smallest attempt at articulation, notwithstanding every means was employed by my parents which bore the least probability of accomplishing this desired effect.

In this state of *taciturnity* I continued till I arrived at my fifteenth year, when my father began to entertain thoughts of placing me as an apprentice, desiring me to make choice of some profession I should like. After having examined into the whole circle of the arts and sciences, I made choice of a *limner* ; my reason for giving this the preference was, that I thought it the most fa-

vourable to my darling doctrine, *Silence*.

The term of my apprenticeship being expired, I entered into business for myself: but soon began to perceive the absolute necessity I lay under for a wife. I accordingly fixed my affections on a young lady my next door neighbour, who was no stranger to my peculiarity of character, and therefore the most likely to produce promotion towards my domestic happiness. Notwithstanding I was determined upon the match, yet I could not at any rate prevail upon myself to open my lips to her; but I spoke very forcibly—*with my eyes*.—I began to follow her with the greatest assiduity; always, however, paying a proper regard to the tacit singularity of my disposition. Was she at church—so was I—was she at the play—so was I. I attended her like a shadow, equally as constant and equally *silent*.

My attention to her at last attracted the observation of her mother, who, having sent for me, addressed me nearly as follows:—"I have observed,

Sir, that you have lately behaved in so very particular a manner to my daughter, that it would be highly indiscreet and unpardonable in me, as her mother, any longer to overlook it; I have, therefore, sent for you to know your intentions, from yourself. If your views are dishonourable, I beg you will remove them to some other object. If, on the contrary, you are actuated by honourable principles, it is time you should now declare it, as my daughter's reputation may be hurt by a continuance of your particularity. In a word, Sir, is it your intention to make my daughter your wife?" As I found there was now a necessity for *speaking*, I gently squeezed her hand, and said, "Yes." Thus ended this remarkable courtship with only *one* word on my side, and still less on that of my intended wife's.

A close attention to business having gredtly impaired my health, I was advitised to take a country lodging for lbe benefit of the air; but a linguar noise is not the only one I dislike; I am for ever changing my

situation. In one place, I was disturbed in the morning by the crowing of a cock ; in another, by the barking of a dog ; and in the third, by the pattling of a parrot. In brief, my silent disposition makes me miserable every where ; therefore I am determined to immediately return to London, where, in the variety of noise, neither cocks, dogs, pigs, nor parrots, can be particularly noticed ; and till my arrival, I subscribe myself,

THE BELLMAN.

The Bellman of Kirriemuir read a written Advertisement in the midst of the multitude on a Fair day, as follows : “ Notish, all persons driving their cattle through the lands of Logie, to or from the market, will be prosecuted with the utmost rigour of law.” And immediately added, by way of sedative to the natives, “ Ye needna mind a’ this, lads, its only a haver o’ the grievc’s.”

SOUND FOR SMELL.

A poor man went into a cook's shop, in Paris, and remained for a considerable time, inhaling the smell of the meat. When about to depart, the cook, being disappointed of the money, seized him and demanded payment; the other refused, and it was at last agreed that the matter should be submitted to the decision of the first person who went by; this chanced to be an idiot, who gave the following judgment;—that the poor man should put his money betwixt two empty plates and so jingle it at the cook's ear, by which the man having fed on the smell of the meat, the cook would be paid with the sound of the man's money.

IMPORTANT PROMOTION.

A bold woman, who had a son in a regiment of Fencibles, then serving in Ireland, received a letter from the young man informing her that he had been promoted, and

now held the rank of corporal. The old woman was much pleased with her son's good fortune, and sallied forth to communicate the good news to her friends. She called on a neighbour woman and told her that Jamie had been made an Admiral. "An admiral!" said Janet, "I thought your son was in the army, an Admiral sails on the sea." "At weel," said the mother, "I'm no vera sure o' the name but it's either an admiral a general or a corporal; it's some o' the *ral*s at ony rate."

THE EMPEROR SEVERUS.

The Emperor Severus being confined with gout at York, one of his courtiers told him that the world did admire how he could govern so many nations, separated so far from one another, and he so much troubled with that disease. To which the Emperor replied, Sir, I rule the empire with my *head*, and not with my *feet* ;

with my *temples*, and not with my *toes*.

CARDINAL WOLSEY.

An extravagant young nobleman having sold a manor which contained one hundred tenements, came ruffling into court in a new suit, saying, "Am not I a mighty man to bear an hundred houses on my back?" Cardinal Wolsey hearing this, said, "You might have employed the money better in paying your debts." "Indeed, my lord," said the other, "you say well, for my father owed your father three half-pence for a calf's head, here is two-pence for it."

A RETORT.

The late Alexander Bilsland, High Street, was a man of some wit, and very good at a retort; he was very

irritable and easily offended. One day a poor student offended him and got some crusty answer, when the domine said, "Yere unco short the day, Saunders." "Od man," said the other, "Yere no sae lang yeresell."

An extraordinary young nobleman having sold a manor which contained one hundred tenants, came rushing into court in a new suit, saying, "Alas! I a mighty man to bear an hundred houses on my back." Cardinal Wolsey hearing this, said, "You might have employed the money better in clearing out debts." "Indeed, my lord," said the other, "you say well, rather owed your father three hundred for a calf's head, there is two pence for it."



A RINDOR
The late Alexander Belling High
School was a man of some wit and
very good at a school; he was very

